

Medieval Armenian Kingdoms and Communities

Prepared by Robert G. Bedrosian

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The materials below are available at Internet Archive for reading online and/or downloading in various formats.

[Introduction to Christian Caucasian History II: States and Dynasties of the Formative Period](#), by Cyril Toumanoff, from *Traditio*, Vol. 17 (1961), pp. 1-106, in 107 pdf pages. This classic study is the best treatment of the origin of Armenian and Iberian/Georgian noble houses.

[Հայ ժողովրդի պատմություն \[History of the Armenian People\], volume 3](#) (Erevan, 1976), B. N. Arakelyan, editor, in 1036 searchable pdf pages. Multiple authors. Devoted to the ninth-fourteenth centuries.

[Հայ ժողովրդի պատմություն \[History of the Armenian People\], volume 4](#) (Erevan, 1972), L. S. Khachikyan, editor, in 687 pdf pages. Multiple authors. Devoted to the fourteenth-eighteenth centuries.

[Բագրատունյաց փառքք \[The Glory of the Bagratids\]](#), by Nicholas Adontz, in 103 bookmarked pdf pages, with genealogical charts. This magnificent study by the great Armenist and Byzantinist initially was written and published in the late 1920s, and then rewritten and republished several times. It describes the rule over the Caucasian states of Armenia, Iberia/Georgia, and Aghuania by the Bagratid dynasty and its branches. Extracted from *Works of Nicholas Adontz in Five Volumes* [in Armenian], Volume 1 (Erevan, 2006), pp. 439-534, P. H. Hovhannisyan, editor.

[Լորիի Կիրիկեան թագադրներու պատմությունը \[The History of the Kiwrikean Kings of Lori\]](#), by Gh. Movse'sean (Vienna, 1923). Study of the royal Kiwrikeans/Korikeans, a branch of the Bagratid family in northern historical Armenia during the 10th-13th centuries. *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 95, in 105 pdf pages.

[Սասունի Թորնիկյան իշխանությունը \[The T'or'nikean Principality of Sasun\]](#), by V. Petoyan, from the journal *Teghekgagir* #2 (1955), pp. 85-96, in 12 pdf pages. This is a study of a medieval principality in the district of historical Armenia known as Sasun (to the southwest of Lake Van), which was ruled by

the Mamikonean family. Covering the period between 1054 and 1207, the article is based on information from the historical works of Matthew of Edessa, Ibn al-Athir, Michael the Syrian, Samuel of Ani and others, and on manuscript colophons.

[Շահ-ի-Արմենները \[The Shah-i Armens\],](#) by H. G. T'urshyan, from *Patma-banasirakan handes [Historico-Philological Journal]* #4 (1964), 117-134, in 18 pdf pages. This is a study of a Saljuq emirate centered around the city of Xlat (Ahlat/Khlat) on the northwestern shore of Lake Van, in the district of historical Armenia known as Taron/Taruberan. Rulers of this unusual emirate were generally philo-Christian. They styled themselves "King of the Armenians," (since Armenians of various faiths made up the bulk of the population), and they frequently married Armenian women. This article traces the area's history from the first Shah-i-Armen, Suqman (in the 11th century), through the Mongol period, and into the mid-15th century.

[Մամիկոնյան-Համազասպյան տոհմը Հայաստանում 12-13 դարերում \[The Mamikonean-Hamazaspean Clan of Northern Armenia in the 12th-13th Centuries\]](#), by A. Shahinyan, from the journal *Lraber* #3 (1968), 84-93, in 10 pdf pages, with rare photos and genealogical charts.

[Երզնկայի հայկական իշխանությունը 13-15 դարերում \[The Armenian Principality of Erzinjan in the 13-15th Centuries\]](#), by E'. M. Baghdasaryan, from the journal *Lraber* #2 (1970), pp 36-44, in 9 pdf pages.

[Սյունիքի թագավորությունը պատմա-աշխարհագրական առումով \[An Historical-Geographical Outline of the Kingdom of Syunik'\]](#), by T'adevos X. Hakobyan, (Erevan, 1966), in 222 bookmarked pdf pages. This is a study of an important district in historical eastern Armenia in ancient and medieval times. Internet Archive has other works by the author, who was a renowned geographer (Search for "T'. X. Hakobyan"). Attached to the document is a pdf file containing maps of historical Siwnik' in Armenian, English, and Russian.

[Լիպարիտ գորավարի հաջորդները և Դանիշմանյան տոհմի ծագման խնդիրը \[The Successors of General Liparit and the Question of the Origin of the Danishmandid Line\]](#), by S. T. Eremyan, from the journal *Teghegagir*, 8(1947), pp. 65-80, in 15 pdf pages. In this fascinating article, Eremyan suggests that emir Malik Danishmand himself—the great warlord and founder of the Danishmandid emirate and hero of the Turkish epic, the *Danishmend-name*—was none other than the Armeno-Georgian Hrahat/Rat Orbelean/Liparitean. The Turkish scholar Halil Yinanc, also, has suggested that Danishmand was an Armenian captive of war—possibly an Arcrunid or Bagratid—who converted to Islam, and then reconquered his own clan's holdings in Cappadocia from Byzantium.

[Հայոց Ուտիք-Գարդման աշխարհը և Առանշահիկ իշխաններն ու թագավորները վաղնջական ժամանակներից մինչև 13 դար \(Դրվագներ\)](#).

[\[The Armenian Land of Utik'-Gardman and the Ar'anshahik Princes and Kings from Most Ancient Times to the 13th Century \(Episodes\)\]](#), by Hovhannes Naltakyan (Erevan, 2013), in 261 bookmarked pdf pages. This is an excellent study of an ancient district in eastern historical Armenia, written by a talented scholar.

[Խաչենի իշխանությունը 10-16 դարերում \[The Principality of Xach'en in the 10th-16th Centuries\]](#), by B. A. Ulubabyan (Erevan, 1975), in 464 bookmarked pdf pages, including genealogical charts. An excellent study of a district (Xach'en/Khachen) in historical eastern Armenia. The author was an acclaimed scholar and also a writer of popular novels.

[Դերբենդի հայ-աղվանական թագավորությունը \[Derbend's Armenian-Aghuanian Kingdom\]](#), by S. G. Barxudaryan, from the journal *Patma-banasirakan handes* 3(1969) pp. 125-148, in 24 pdf pages. The history of the ancient and important city of Derbend/Derbent, located by the northwestern shore of the Caspian Sea, is described in a Wikipedia article ([Derbent](#)). Among the city's many rulers in the Medieval period were Armenian and Aghuan princes. Barxudaryan's study describes what is known about them and the dynasties they created.

[Արցախի, Շաքիի և Փարիսոսի իշխանությունները 9-10 դարերում \[The Principalities of Artsakh, Shak'i and P'arisos in the 9th-10th Centuries\]](#), by S. G. Barxudaryan, from the journal *Patma-banasirakan handes* 1(1971) pp. 52-76, in 25 pdf pages. A study of three districts in the Caucasus and their medieval rulers, based on Classical and Caucasian sources. The author was a celebrated historian and publisher of Armenian inscriptions. Wikipedia has entries on two of the districts: [historical Arts'ax/Artsakh/Mountainous Karabagh](#) and [Shaki](#).

["Վարդապետք Հայոց հիւսիսային կողմանց" և նրանց ինքնությունը \["The Armenian Vardapets of the Northern Regions" and Their Identity\]](#), by Levon Melikset-Bek, in 299 bookmarked pdf pages, with rare photos. This is a Modern Armenian translation (Etchmiadzin, 2016) of a Georgian monograph (Tbilisi, 1928) dealing with vardapets (Doctors of the Armenian Church) from areas of northern historical Armenia. Translated, with an introductory essay and appendices, by the distinguished philologist, Hratch Bayramyan.

[Պատմական Հայաստանի քաղաքները \[The Cities of Historical Armenia\]](#), by T'. X. Hakobyan (Erevan, 1987), in 277 bookmarked pdf pages, with many rare photos. This important work describes the cities of historical Armenia in central and eastern Asia Minor, in Cilicia, and Iran.

[Անի մայրաքաղաք \[The Capital City Ani\]](#), by T'. X. Hakobyan (Erevan, 1988), in 363 bookmarked pdf pages, with numerous illustrations. A thorough history of an important city in eastern Asia Minor, which was capital of the medieval

Armenian kingdom of the Bagratids and later ruled by the Saljuqs/Seljuqs, the Georgian Bagratids, the Zakarids, and the Mongols.

[Արտազի հայկական իշխանությունը և Շորժորի դպրոցը \[The Armenian Principality of Artaz and the School of Tsortsor\]](#), by Levon Khachikyan, from *Banber Matenadaran* [*Journal of the Matenadaran*] (Erevan, Armenia) volume 11 (1973), pp. 125-210, in 86 pdf pages. Artaz, which was ruled by the lordly Amatuni family, is located in the district of Vaspurakan in southern historical Armenia. The famous monastery over the tomb of the Apostle Thaddeus is located here and is still a functioning church and place of pilgrimage (T'adevank'). The article focuses on the 13th-15th centuries and includes genealogical charts and rare photos.

[Բաղէշի Դպրոցը 1500-1704 \[The School of Baghesh 1500-1704\]](#), by Nerses Akinean/Akinian (Vienna, 1952). A study of the churches and literature of the Bitlis area, located at the southwestern corner of Lake Van. Baghesh/Bitlis and the surrounding areas of Taron/Mush and Sasun were cradles of Armenian civilization, possessing many temples and places of pilgrimage from early times, active scriptoria with brilliant miniaturists, and a distinctive architecture. *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 172, in 414 pdf pages.

[Maps of Historical Armenia and Neighboring Lands](#). This download, in 62 bookmarked pdf pages, is a collection of color and black-and-white maps in Armenian, Russian, and English, showing historical Armenia from remote antiquity through the 14th century. Most of the maps were drawn by the renowned cartographer Suren T. Eremyan. Other cartographers include E. V. Xanzadyan, M. A. Katvalyan, B. H. Harut'yunyan and Cyril Toumanoff.

[Armenia: A Historical Atlas](#), by Robert H. Hewsen (Chicago, 2001). A Wikipedia entry describes the life and achievements of [Robert Hewsen](#), an extraordinary American historian and cartographer. His *magnum opus* is the *Atlas*. Internet Archive has the entire *Atlas*, divided into parts. This document is a page of clickable links to those parts

[The Kingdom of Cilician Armenia](#), by Sirarpie Der Nersessian, from *A History of the Crusades* (Philadelphia, 1962), K. M. Setton, Editor-in-Chief, vol. II. Chapter XVIII, pp. 630-659, in 30 searchable pdf pages. Written by the great 20th-century Armenist and art historian Dr. Sirarpie Der Nersessian, it is a concise, scholarly survey of the Cilician Armenian kingdom's political, military, and cultural history to the early 14th century.

[Կիլիկիայի հայկական պետությունը \[The Armenian State of Cilicia\]](#), chapters 40-46 from volume 3 of *Hay zhoghovrdi patmut'yun [History of the Armenian People]* (Erevan, 1976), in 139 pdf pages, by M. K. Zulalyan, S. V. Bornazyan, and Kh. A. Musheghyan.

[Միջնադարյան աղանդների ծագման և զարգացման պատմությունից \[From the History of the Origin and Development of Medieval Sects\]](#), by E. G. Ter-Minasyan (Erevan, 1968), in 240 pdf pages. Topics: Syncretism, Mithraism, Gnosticism, the Borborits, *mtsgheut'yun*, Mandaism, Manichaeism, Mazdakism, the Paulicians, T'ondrakians, and Phantasiasts.

[Աղանդավորական շարժումները Հայաստանում ըստ միջնադարի հայ և օտար հեղինակների \(IV-V դդ.\) \[Heretical Movements in Armenia according to Medieval Armenian and Foreign Authors \(4th-5th Centuries\)\]](#), by Hratch Bartikyan, from *Lraber hasarakakan gitut'yunneri [Bulletin of Social Sciences]* (Erevan, Armenia) 10(1984), pp. 83-93, in 11 pdf pages.

[Պավլիկյան շարժման գաղափարախոսությունը \[The Ideology of the Paulician Movement\]](#), by Hratch Bartikyan, from the journal *Lraber hasarakakan gitut'yunneri [Bulletin of Social Sciences]* (Erevan, Armenia) 8(1979), pp. 94-101, in 8 pdf pages.

[Անյայտ աղանդավորներ Հայոց մեջ ԺԶ. ու ԺԷ. դարերում \[Unknown Sectarians among the Armenians in the 16th and 17th Centuries\]](#), by T'. Awdalbe'gean/Avdalbegyan (Vienna, 1926). The heretical movements of Mekhlu *baba* and others. The second part of the book contains shorter articles by Avdalbegyan: 1. *Mehruzhan Artsrunu zayroyt'e*"; 2. *Norits' Koriwne" Vrastani episkopos ch'e' eghel*; 3. *Kund Aramazd*; 4. *Koghmn sephakan gndin - Vaspurakan*. *Azgayin matenadaran series*, volume 115, in 88 pdf pages.

Matti Moosa

[Armenian Elements in the Beliefs of the Kizilbash Kurds](#). This study appears as chapter 38 in the book *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), pp. 432-447. Written by the eminent historian and Syriac scholar, Dr. Matti Moosa, it describes the cultural and religious interaction between heterodox Christianity and heterodox Islam in parts of Asia Minor and northern Mesopotamia. Includes chapter notes and the book's full Bibliography, in 54 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages.

[Sultan Sahak: Founder of the Ahl-i Haqq](#). The Ahl-i Haqq, a confessional group known from parts of Asia Minor, northern Mesopotamia, and Persia/Iran, revere 'Ali to the point of deification. The download, in 48 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages, comprises chapter 18 from *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), as well as the chapter's notes and the book's bibliography. Moosa, a renowned Syriac scholar and historian, suggests that this group originated from medieval Armenian sectarians (such as Paulicians and their confessional

descendants) who adopted Islam, retaining their preference for the Armenian forms of names (Sahak for Isaac; Noy for Noah; Baus/Boghos, for Paul) and having other customs which may derive from Armenian Christian rites.

[The Ahl-i Haqq](#). The download, in 119 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages, comprises chapters 16-21 from *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), as well as the chapters' notes and the book's bibliography. Contents: 16. The Ahl-i Haqq (Ali Ilahis): Origin and Identity; 17. Cosmology and Cosmogony; 18. Sultan Sahak: Founder of the Ahl-i Haqq; 19. The Cult of Dawud; 20. The Jam; and 21. The Role of Ali.

[Pagan, Christian, and Islamic Elements in the Beliefs of the Ghulat](#). This study appears as chapter 37 in *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), pp. 419-431. Includes chapter notes and the book's full Bibliography, in 52 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages

[Ghulat Beliefs](#). This study appears as chapters 5-15 in *Extremist Shiites: the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988) pp. 50-184, with chapter notes and the book's full Bibliography in 196 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. Contents: 5. The Ghulat's "Trinity"; 6. The Miraculous Attributes of Ali; 7. The Family of the Prophet; 8. Religious Hierarchy; 9. The Twelve Imams; 10. The Abdal; 11. Rituals and Ceremonies; 12. Social Customs; 13. Religious Books; 14. The Bajwan and Ibrahimiyya; and 15. The Sarliyya-Kakaiyya.

[The Shabak, Bektashis, Safawis, and Kizilbash](#). This is probably the best English-language study of several important confessional groups in the Middle East. The download, in 97 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages, comprises chapters 1-4 from *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), as well as chapter notes and the book's bibliography.

[The Nusayris \(Alawis\)](#). The download, in 227 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages, comprises chapters 22-36 from *Extremist Shiites, the Ghulat Sects* (Syracuse, 1988), as well as chapter notes and the book's bibliography. Contents: The Nusayris (Alawis): Ancient Period; The Middle Period; Under the French Mandate; Rise to Political Power; The Concept of God; The Apotheosis of Ali; The Nusayri Concept of Light: Shamsis and Qatnaris; The Nusayri "Trinity": Ali, Muhammad and Salman al-Farisi; The Twelve Imams; Role of the Aytam and Spiritual Hierarchies; Metempsychosis; Initiation; Nusayri Ceremonies: Festivals; The Nusayri Mass; The Nusayris, Sunnites, and Twelver Shiites.

G. E. White

[Studies in the Faith and Folklore of Asia Minor](#). The five articles in this file were published in *Journal of the Transactions of the Victoria Institute* and *The Moslem World* during the years 1907-1919. Compiled and bookmarked, in 78 pdf pages (2016). Topics: Survivals of Primitive Religion among the People of Asia Minor; The Shia Turks, Some Non-Conforming Turks, Saint Worship in Turkey, Evil Spirits and the Evil Eye in Turkish Lore.

F. W. Hasluck

[Christianity and Islam under the Sultans](#), volume 1 of 2 (Oxford, 1929), in 433 searchable pdf pages. Frederick William Hasluck (1878–1920), the renowned English antiquarian, historian, and archaeologist, provides invaluable information about the interplay between Christianity and Islam in Turkey, focusing on folklore, heterodox faiths and customs. Contents of volume 1 include: Transference of Urban Sanctuaries; Arrested Urban Transferences; Secularized Urban Churches; Transference of Rural Sanctuaries; Christian Sanctuaries Frequented by Moslems; Moslem Sanctuaries Frequented by Christians; Transference of Natural Sanctuaries-Mountains and Springs; Studies in Turkish Popular History and Religion; Heterodox Tribes of Asia Minor; Shia Movements and Propaganda in Asia Minor; Nature Cults; Tomb and Sanctuary; Inviolability of Sanctuary; Cult of the Dead; Saints and Their Miracles; Old Testament Saints; Koranic Saints; Tribal Saints; Saints and Demons of the Sea; Bogus Saints; A Provincial Pantheon.

[Christianity and Islam under the Sultans](#), volume 2 of 2 (Oxford, 1929), in 538 searchable pdf pages. Contents of volume 2 include: Plato in the Folklore of the Konia Plain; Christianity and Islam under the Sultans of Konia; The Inscriptions of Saint Chariton's; The Blessing of the Waters; 'The Forty'; Haidar, Khoja Ahmed, Karaja Ahmed; The Tomb of Saint Polycarp; Sari Saltik; Saint John "the Russian"; Renegade Saints; Neomartyrs of the Orthodox Church; Stag and Saint; The Saints of Armudlu; The Crypto-Christians of Trebizond; Lists of Heterodox Tribes; Haji Bektash and the Janissaries; George of Hungary; Geographical Distribution of the Bektashi; Ambiguous Sanctuaries and Bektashi Propaganda; The Rise of the Karaosmanoglu; The Girding of the Sultans; Columns of Ordeal; Western Travellers through Eastern Eyes; Dieudonne de Gozon and the Dragon of Rhodes; Sheikh El Bedawi of Tanta; Terra Lemnia; Observations on Incubation; Caliph Mamun and the Magic Fish; Three Unjust Deeds; Graves of the Arabs in Asia Minor; Mosques of the Arabs in Constantinople; Prophecy of the Red Apple; Maiden's Castle; Modern Tradition of Jerusalem.

Lucy M.J. Garnett

[The Women of Turkey and Their Folk-lore](#), by Lucy M.J. Garnett and John S. Stuart-Glennie (London, 1890-1891). Download includes both volumes of this two-volume work, in 1114 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. This is an invaluable resource for the study of many aspects of the history and customs of Asia Minor. While Garnett's focus is on 19th-century Turkey, her historical approach also makes the work a treasure trove for the medieval and even ancient history and folklore of Asia Minor. John Stuart-Glennie has provided introductory chapters on the ethnography of Turkey and folk-conceptions of nature, and concluding chapters on the origins of matriarchy.

Contents:

Volume 1: Christian Women. Part 1. Chapter 1. Vlach Women; Chapters 2-5. Greek Women, their social status and activities, family ceremonies, belief and superstitions, folk-poesy and folk-tales; Chapters 6-9. Armenian Women; Chapters 10-13. Bulgarian Women; Chapter 14 Frank [European] Women.

Volume 2: Jewish and Muslim Women. Part 2. Chapters 1-4. Judaic Women, their family life, status, occupations, ceremonies, culture-beliefs and folk-beliefs, folk-poesy and folk-tales; Chapter 5. Dunmeh/Donmeh Women; Part 3. Moslem Women. Chapters 1-4. Kurdish Women; Chapters 5-6. Circassian Women; Chapter 7. Yuruk Women; Chapters 8-12. Albanian Women; Chapter 13. Tatar Women; Chapters 14-15. Gipsy Women; Chapters 16-24. Osmanli Women.

Wikipedia entries:

[Medieval Armenia](#)
[Kingdom of Georgia](#)

[Armenian Resource Guides](#), at Internet Archive.

Our latest additions on the topic of [Medieval Armenian Kingdoms](#), at Internet Archive (most recent at the top of the list).